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Summary record of the 53rd meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 157: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) *(continued)* (A/63/867 and A/63/874)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 (A/63/867), said that, following the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1872 (2009), the Secretary-General had submitted a request for commitment authority, with assessment, to continue providing support to AMISOM. The full budget for 2009/10 would be submitted to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/275 had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to $77,790,900, to be assessed on the Member States, in order to support AMISOM for the period from 1 May 2007 to 30 June 2009. For the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009, the Secretary-General was requesting further resources to support AMISOM, providing for military and police personnel, international and national staff, acquisition of equipment and operational requirements. The General Assembly was accordingly invited to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $185,673,700 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 and to assess that amount for that same period.

3. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/874) said that the Secretary-General's request for a commitment authority, with assessment, had been made pending submission of the proposed budget for the support of AMISOM for 2009/10. The Advisory Committee therefore expected that the proposed budget for that period, including a detailed description of actual expenditure incurred in 2008/09, would be prepared as a matter of priority and submitted to the General Assembly for action early in the main part of its sixty-fourth session.

4. Bearing in mind that expectation, its recommendations and the previous decision of the General Assembly regarding resources for the support of AMISOM, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009 in the amount of $124,000,000 and that it should approve assessment of that amount for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2009. That recommendation to authorize commitments in no way prejudged the Advisory Committee's potential position on the structure, number and level of posts or on other resources for support to AMISOM or a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

5. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the African Group, agreed with the Secretary-General that AMISOM would be unable to establish effective peacekeeping operations without support from the United Nations and donors. It was therefore crucial to authorize the request for resources and deliver the assistance package in a timely manner. Doing so would help AMISOM deploy the personnel it needed to carry out its mandate and lay the groundwork for a future United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

Agenda item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 *(continued)*

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued) (A/63/346/Add.7 and A/63/868)

6. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revised budget for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 for the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) (A/63/346/Add.7), said that the revision in question had been undertaken in response to the request made by the General Assembly in section IV of its resolution 63/268.

7. Although a revised UNPOS budget for 2009 had originally been submitted to the General Assembly for consideration during the first part of its resumed sixty-third session (A/63/346/Add.6, sect. C), it had not been possible to reflect the impact of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) in that proposal. The Assembly had therefore requested the Secretary-General to submit a revised budget proposal for consideration during the second part of its resumed sixty-third session.

8. Taking into account the amounts already appropriated pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 62/238, 62/245 and 63/263, as well as actual expenditure incurred in 2008, the net additional appropriation for 2009 amounted to $9,362,700 under section 3, Political affairs, and $983,200 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

9. The General Assembly was invited to approve the proposed revised budget for UNPOS for 2009 in the amount of $16,004,100 net; to take note of the balance of $6,641,400 estimated to remain available under the appropriation for UNPOS for the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of actual expenditure incurred in 2008 and to appropriate in conformity with General Assembly resolution 41/213 the additional resources required for 2009.

10. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/63/868), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $808,800 in the proposed revised UNPOS budget for 2009. In making those recommendations, the Advisory Committee had been guided particularly by the need to fulfil the request made by the Security Council in its resolution 1872 (2009) to deploy elements of UNPOS and other offices to Mogadishu, and the ability of UNPOS to perform its activities in its current and future locations, on the basis of recent experience. Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General was expected to submit the resource requirements for special political missions, including UNPOS, to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session, in accordance with the request made in section XI of resolution 63/263, the Advisory Committee recommended that the phased deployment factor for the new positions proposed be increased from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

11. The Advisory Committee had found a lack of clarity in the respective role and responsibilities of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and UNPOS. It trusted that the Secretary-General, when submitting the resource requirements for UNPOS at the Assembly's sixty-fourth session, would provide information on coordination between UNPOS, UNSOA and the United Nations Development Programme aimed at streamlining operations and sharing information and costs.

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

12. **Mr. Råsbrant** (Sweden), speaking as the coordinator of the informal consultations on sub-item 144 (b), said the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on the text of a draft resolution.

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45, submitted by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

14. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution.

15. **The Chairman** said that action would be taken on the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

Other matters

16. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in response to the concerns expressed by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union at the Committee's fifty-second meeting on the subject of the late issuance of official documents, said that all the parties involved should review the planning and execution of their work. The aim should be to return to the process originally envisaged when the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/233 A, had altered the financing cycle for peacekeeping operations. Doing so would ensure that each party had sufficient time for proper consideration.

17. The problem of completing consideration of the financing of peacekeeping operations on schedule must be confronted and resolved before the start of the next budgetary cycle. The Advisory Committee required all peacekeeping financing for its consideration of the documentation to be available by the time its peacekeeping session began in late January or early February of each year. In addition, meetings of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee should be synchronized to the greatest possible extent. The

Advisory Committee stood ready to work with the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat to overcome shared difficulties and to seek solutions rather than spending time assigning blame for a long-standing problem.

18. **Mr. Ruíz Massieu** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that his Group was still awaiting clarification from the Secretariat regarding concerns it had expressed at the forty-second meeting of the Fifth Committee in connection with the financing of conference support services for the Human Rights Council, and in particular for its universal periodic review mechanism. The continued uncertainty surrounding the matter should be resolved. It extended even to deciding under which agenda item to pursue discussions. If, as was reportedly the case, existing resources were insufficient to cover the translation into all the official languages of the 13 universal periodic review outcome reports due to be adopted in the Human Rights Council the following week, the Committee must find a solution.

19. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat had explained the situation regarding conference servicing support for the Human Rights Council, and had subsequently provided supplementary information. It would continue to provide assistance and information, whether the Committee chose to continue discussing the matter in the context of the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences or in connection with any other appropriate agenda item.

20. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, wondered whether the reports of the Advisory Committee concerning the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 would be made available sufficiently in advance of the start of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

21. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), said that although the deadline of 24 July 2009 for the completion of its reports was extremely challenging, the Advisory Committee would make every effort to complete its work on time.

22. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee should agree on a suitable course of action, given the likelihood that the Advisory Committee would be prevented from meeting its deadline by the very large volume of reports involved.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.